

Zurich Crickets 2nd XI victorious against Winterthur CC

Falling 10 runs short chasing 151 against the same opponents two weeks ago in the Pickwick T20 match, ZCCC's 2nd XI successfully chased down the target of 172 with 9 balls to spare in the CSNL 40-over league match.

Fielding first, Attaullah had both openers off consecutive deliveries in the 2nd over with Kutti taking a skier from the ever-dangerous Cheema at mid-on and Maxi taking the catch of WCC skipper, who gloved down the legside.

With the score at 8-2, Winterthur's Murali counter attacked (dropped twice) and put on a 51-run partnership with Shaaraz, which eventually was broken by a stunning catch to remove Murali taken at deep square leg by Vincent off Shankar's accurate medium pace bowling.

Vadim as usual provided two further breakthroughs with his perfect leg spinners, the first one a blinder taken again by Vincent at deep square leg and the second taken by Latif making a lot of ground to take a skier at mid-off.

With the score at 127-5 at the end of 20 overs, ZCCC's plan was to restrict the opponents to less than 200, which was executed brilliantly by Kavi with 4 scalps, 2 of them in the space of 3 deliveries in the 25th over to break a 43-run stand between the 6th & 7th batsmen and the 8th & 9th dismissed in 27th & 29th over.

ZCCC's 2nd XI restricted Winterthur to 171 in 30 overs with Saru taking the last wicket, another running catch taken by Kutti at mid-wicket.

ZCCC's 2nd XI chase did not start as expected with both openers Saru and Latif back in the pavilion with the score reading 15-2. Maxi did look in good touch until run out in the 5th over attempting a very tight single and the score on 29-3.

With 143 runs needed of 35 overs, ZCCC's 2nd XI skipper Gokul (52) and Shankar (29) put on a much-needed partnership of 69 runs, with Shankar playing one of the nicest lofted cover drives during his composed innings until adjudged LBW 10 balls before the mid-innings break.

At the end of 20 overs, ZCCC felt confident about chasing down the remaining 65 runs with 6 wickets in hand. However, with Kutti run out in the very first over after the break with the score on 110-5, Vadim (a valuable 11 off 29) batted well and brilliantly swept WCC's left arm spinner, one of them travelling to the boundary.

Nevertheless, within the space of 1 run, Gokul was adjudged LBW just after his determined half century and Vadim followed soon after with score on 134-7 after 28 overs.

Khalid (28*) showed great determination and composure with much needed support from Vincent and Kavi to successfully cross the line this time.

It was the team's first CSNL win, a result of a perfect teamwork and contributions from each of the playing XI, and now means ZCCC's 2nd XI stand a chance of qualifying for the CSNL quarter finals. The team will now play a must win match on 28th August against Zurich Lions!

Special thanks to Shafiullah for umpiring, Krishna for his contributions on the field as 12th Man and for scoring, and Tejas as always for cheering on the team!